

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 ROME 13908 141543Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 IO-14 OMB-01 /134 W

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R 141455Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2344

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13908

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IT TS XF

SUBJECT: SYRIAN/ITALIAN RELATIONS: EXCHANGE OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS

1. ON DECEMBER 13 RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMED US THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY BENSI MAY MAKE VISIT TO SYRIA EARLY IN JANUARY. SOURCE SAID THAT INFORMATION WAS SENSITIVE FOR THE MOMENT SINCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BENSI'S TRIP ARE NOT RPT NOT AS YET COMPLETE. OFFICIAL SAID THAT PLANNED VISIT AT LEAST PARTIALLY PROMPTED BY TUNISAN FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI'S SUGGESTION THAT ITALIANS CULTIVATE CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SYRIA (ROME 13733). HOWEVER, OFFICIAL RECALLED IT HAS BEEN ITALIAN AND EC INTENTION FOR SOME TIME TO SEEK CLOSER TIES WITH SYRIA TO PROVIDE SYRIANS WITH ALTERNATIVE TO THEIR HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS.

2. ACCORDING SOURCE, ITALIANS EXPECT THAT SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM MAY VISIT ROME IN MID-FEBRUARY. HE RECALLED THAT KHADDAM VISIT HAS BEEN AN ON-AND-OFF THING SINCE LAST SUMMER, AND INDICATED IN THIS CONTEXT VISIT IS TENTATIVE.
BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: ITINERARY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
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Draft Date: 14 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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